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Politics and Water.

It is obvious that Governor HIGGINS and the Republicans in the Legislature are unwilling to have New York's water supply system extended unless it shall be used as a hydraulic accessory to a political machine. Mayor McClellan has been anxious to keep politics out of the enterprise. To this Governor HIG-GINS has refused to assent, and if, as appears now, the whole question is to be put into the hands of a State Commission the taxpavers of New York city

have good cause for uneasiness. It is within the power of the Legislature and Governor to exclude the city from any control or supervision over the work of building new reservoirs and conduits, for which many millions of dollars must soon be expended. The action of the Assembly Committee on Water Supply, Gas and Electricity in reporting the State Commission bill while neglecting to advance the McClellan bill looks as if a scheme by which ODELL's agents can get their hands into the city treasure chest was under consideration at Albany. Crackers and cheese the Grocery Gang have in abundance; now they seem to be thirsty.

The Necessity of Consent to Surgical Operations.

A great deal of interest and some anxiety have been aroused among members of the medical profession in this country by a recent lawsuit in Minnesota involving the question of the necessity of obtaining the patient's consent to a surgical operation. The plaintiff, a young woman, complained that the defendant, a surgeon, had been employed by her to perform an operation upon her right ear; but that after she was etherized he had operated upon the left ear, although she had never given her consent that any operation should be performed upon that organ. The defence appears to have been that although the original intention of the surgeon was to operate upon the right ear he discovered, upon the fuller examination which he was enabled to make when the patient was put under ether, that the left ear was the more seriously diseased of the two, and that he operated upon the left ear upon the understanding that the patient 17 placing herself in his hands had tacitly consented that he might do so if he deemed it advisable in the exercise of his best judgment. The Judge who presided at the trial held that no such consent could be implied from the circumstances of the case, and that the tiff a verdict for more than \$14,000.

that these damages were excessive; but the case as it stands is a judicial declara- already sustained, it is as nothing comtion to the effect that where a patient expressly consents to a specified surgical operation, or an operation upon a specifled organ, the surgeon cannot perform different organ, without rendering himself legally liable to respond in money damages to the patient.

While medical men generally are willing enough to concede the justice and propriety of the rule of law which denies to a surgeon the right to operate upon any patient without the permission of that relation of authority to the patient, it is very commonly insisted by medical writers on the subject that the law ought to allow the surgeon to exercise a reasonable discretion, so that if he finds a condition demanding operative interference different from that contemplated by the patient, and possibly the removal of an organ not suspected to be diseased prior to the operation, he should have the legal right to operate as he thinks for the best interests of the patient under the circumstances.

treatise on the Law in its Relations to integrity and personal honor. To sane TAYLOR of the New York bar about five of life insurance is possible. Mr. HAR- after plan, that man was HANS CHRISTIAN years ago, it is stated as a general proption results in the conclusion that whether | pretend to. He desires it in his own in- to become an actor. He spent years there has been a tacit consent to a given operation or not-that is to say whether | HABRIMAN will probably get it. Sheep and composed verse constantly; later consent may be implied from all the circumstances under which the operation | slay a butcher. was undertaken-is in most cases to be decided as a question of fact by the jury rather than to be determined as a question of law by the court.

The most recent case involving this question which has come before the courts of this State was decided by the ner of BENJAMIN B. ODELL. Through some form or other—in translation, submitting to an operation in a charita- and succor to the Legislature? What ANDERSEN frankly admitted that of all ble hospital in this city. The mother contended that the boy was sent to the additional fetters if they are not already approbation were the ones he himself hospital merely to be examined and not for surgical treatment, and that the they turn to the Attorney-General of the more or less faithfully, but undoubtedly operation which was subsequently undertaken, and which resulted in his death, him? He is ODELL and HARRIMAN'S of his marvellous, illuminating fancy, was performed without her consent or good, true and trusty henchman. Whither and invariably endeavoring to write the consent of the maid whom she sent to the hospital with the lad. It did not plight? Probably nowhere, but we shall it to another. The ability to preserve appear, however, that the maid informed the surgeons at the hospital of any limitation upon her authority. She merely

lad was suffering from blood poisoning and that a simple operation was necessary, they proceeded to perform it, with the result already stated. It was insisted that they ought to have informed the maid of their intention to perform the operation; and in reference to this contention Mr. Justice WOODWARD said:

" Under the facts here disclosed the defendants had a right to assume that the boy was there for treatment; that his case was submitted for their judgment and action, and it would be contrary to law to hold that the fact that they did not disclose their intention of operating upon the boy, if this was a fact, to Agnes Evans (the maid who accompanied him), who does not appear to have suggested any limitation upon their right to treat the patient under their employment as alleged in the complaint, rendered them liable in an action of this character. We find no authority holding a contrary dectrine. and it would be holding the employees of a charitable hospital to a high degree of responsibility to say that they must notify the guardians of every patient brought to them for treatment before they can perform the simplest of surgical operations, under pain of being called upon to pay damages in the event of unexpected fatalities."

This judicial utterance, however, is found in a dissenting opinion, in which Presiding Justice Goodrich concurred. It did not receive the sanction of the three other members of the court, who voted for a reversal of the order of the trial court dismissing the complaint, and who must therefore have held that the surgeons were not authorized to operate without at least disclosing their intention to do so to the person who accompanied the patient, and thus giving her an opportunity to refuse to permit the operation.

Where the patient is a child, the consent which the law requires must be obtained from the parent, or from some person standing in the relation of parent or guardian to the patient. Where the patient is a married woman it has been held in some cases that the consent of the husband is necessary; but this proposition has been denied by the Supreme Court of Maryland in a leading case on the subject, in which the court said:

" Surely the law does not authorize the husband to say to his wife, "You shall die of the cancer; you cannot be sured, and a surgical operation affording only temporary relief will result in useless expense." The husband has no right to withhold from his wife the medical assistance which her case might re-

A simple and practicable method of avoiding all question in cases of the character which we have discussed is suggested by Dr. BURNSIDE FOSTER in a communication to the New York Mediprobably be wise for the surgeon to provide himself with a blank form, which, when filled out, signed by the patient and properly witnessed, would give him authority to do whatever he believed it necessary and proper to do in each individual case.

Would a Sheep Kill a Butcher? As against a vast and scattered flock

of sheep of both sexes and all ages, inat this time opposed the benevolence of | But the distance was compassed finally, general public, and to the sheep, as this particular activity of Mr. HARRIMAN'S.

It is not too much to say that the welfare of the whole business, the entire permanently. But why HANS CHRISTIAN system of life insurance, depends upon | ANDERSEN could write his wonder tales defendant was at all events liable for a its outcome. Gravely as life insurance no man can say. How was he able to technical assault. The jury gave the plain- has already suffered by the deplorable imagine characters and situations that scandal of the Equitable, great as the A new trial was granted on the ground damage has been which every life in- unable to conceive? In what did his surance company, large or small, has pared to what threatens in the immediate future.

company doing a business of a billion and a different operation, or operate upon a having cash assets of over \$400,000,000 him stories and reading aloud to him quarrel among themselves over its control. In the quarrel a few, a very few, facts concerning its management leak have made a strong impression, for as out. Although these facts are rela- a lad Hans used to gaze at the Odense tively trivial they paralyze the policy- prison-standing at a safe distance-and holders with apprehension and stun dream stories about the robbers and the public. Only a quarrel on the in- thieves who were confined there. When side could have led to their disclosure, patient, or of some one standing in a and only over the division of the spoils his grandmother assured him that the of management could a quarrel have great comet of 1811 would destroy the arisen. This is the plain truth; plain earth, and took him to St. Canut's churchenough now that it has been brutally yard, where, trembling with apprehenbrought into the daylight, but which, until it was so brought out, no one could | Again, he often visited this grandmother, have been persuaded for one moment to | who was employed in an asylum for the

believe. Mr. HARRIMAN, with his associates, is determined to have the control of ing to their weird tales in return. He the Equitable, the control of the \$400,- seldom played with other children, who sacred and inviolable trust known to Up to the present time, however, the decent and honest men. Theoretically, to seek his fortune in Copenhagen he general tendency of judicial decision in men are called to administer such trusts America is opposed to the exercise of only because to high and special ability world. such a right. In the excellent little they join unblemished reputation for Physicians, written by Mr. ARTHUB N. | minds no other concept of the business | absolute and effective barrier to plan RIMAN desires the control of this vast ANDERSEN. Possessed of what was esition of law that a surgeon must have sum because he needs it in his business. consent before operating upon a patient; He does not desire it in the interest of studied with the ambition of becoming

Sheep, however, have emotions, comcendency in their fold, the Equitable, things by which he is known the world by who had died under chloroform while | ing victims of the Equitable go for relief | erected in his honor has crumbled away. have they to expect? The certainty of his stories those which met the widest shackled to the butcher's liking. Would had heard as a child. These he retold State? What have they to hope from transformed them by adding the play then can they turn in their desperate his narrative as one child would repeat support to a speculative manager, who

presently see. another Furnaceville where Mr. HARRI- other man. In his case, however, it might do quieted possible misgivings submitted the boy for their examination Man's peculiar alchemy has full sway, was unavoidable; for, contrary to the as to its source. If the attendance at and, as they supposed, for treatment; the outlook for the sheep is dismal. They prevailing belief, HANS CHEISTIAN AN- these balls had continued large, later

pist, as a man enjoying all the requisite qualifications for trusteeship and administration of a great and sacred fiduciary duty. The wizard of Furnaceville, with his demonstrated ability to turn mud into gold, seems hardly the man to handle the trust funds of widows and orphans. There is an alleged surplus fund in the Equitable of over \$80,000,000. The sheep can even now picture the manner of Mr. HARRIMAN'S approach to that surplus, his demeanor at its opulent contiguity. It must remind them of the diffidence of a starved wolf made suddenly aware of

a dozen of lamb chops. The sheep may derive little comfort from the spectacle which is thus placed before them, but it should give them an illuminating sense of Mr. HARRIMAN'S strength in the Equitable situation and explain to them how it is that he has come to dominate it. He is the strong man who stands between the plunderers of the Equitable and the retribution that is their due. He it is who answers for OpeLL, who has already had a copious draught out of the Equitable flask, but whose thirst is never quenched save to be quenched some more. HARRIMAN it is tripot look to keep clear, undisturbed and flowing full, all and several, those into that mighty Pactolus, the river of the Equitable's gold.

Are the days of miracles gone forever? It is impossible that we shall ever see the throat. Who knows? And in the meantime, as the truly elegant Mr. JAMES HAZEN HYDE would insinuate with his matchless purity of accent, Nous reviendrons à nos moutons!

The Child Who Died at Seventy.

In the village of Odense, Denmark, there lived, just one hundred years ago this spring, a young married couple who were much in love with each other. The husband, a shoemaker, had scarcely passed his twenty-first year, while the wife, although somewhat older, was even more ignorant than he of life and the great world. They occupied one small room, furnished for the most part with a cobbler's bench and a wooden bedstead which a short time before had borne the coffin of the deceased Count TRAMPE, as he lay in state. In that room, a century ago to-day, was born one who was destined to become a facal Journal, in which he says that it would mous writer. As he nalvely remarks in his autobiography: "Instead of a noble corpse, surrounded by crape and wax lights, here lay, on the second of April, 1805, a living and weeping child -that was myself, HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN."

It is a long way from such surroundings to acquaintance with kings and princes; friendship with famous scientists, authors, statesmen, players, artists; familiarity with the capitals of Europe, dulgently called policyholders, there is and with its seas and mountain peaks. one man, Mr. EDWARD H. HARRIMAN. and although the physical body of the There is nothing else to be anywhere little child born in Odense could not discerned that is so interesting to the travel so widely, nor endure so long, yet the creations of his mind have made their way to the uttermost parts of the earth, to find abiding place, perhaps other authors of creative literature were mind differ so radically from other

minds? We do not know. As soon as the little boy was old enough to understand such things, his father The trustees of a great life insurance made him perspective glasses, toy theatres, and pictures; he was fond of telling from HOLBERG's plays and the "Arabian Nights." These and other tales must he was only six years old his mother and sion, he viewed the mighty ball of fire. insane, and spent many hours telling stories to the harmless patients or listenfinally left home, at the age of fourteen. was ill prepared to struggle with the

> If ever a man saw Fate loom up ahead of him, again and again imposing an thought to be a remarkable voice, he

death.

An American gentleman who once called upon ANDERSEN in Copenhagen, when the author was almost sixty, found | not be tolerated to-day. him living in the second story of a dingy, dilapidated house, opposite one of the unsavory canals by which the city was intersected, the locality being given up largely to tenements, mud scows, fish, shops. ANDERSEN by that time was able to live in luxury, but preferred the obscurity of a plain lodging and liked to any piquant incidents that the last move about from time to time, tarrying a while in all sorts of queer quarters. His only companions, the visitor continues, were two aged peasant women whom he employed as domestics—"weatherbeaten and decrepit old creatures, with faces and forms very much like a pair of antiquated nut crackers." One of these picturesque servants told the American to knock on a certain door, which he did. A moment later it was opened, and there before him stood "a tall, thin, shambling, rawboned figure of a man a little beyond the prime of life, but not yet old, with a while the resort of spectators who were pair of dancing gray eyes and a hatchet to whom the syndics and cosyndics of the face, all alive with twists and wrinkles and muscles." His face was long and lean, its most prominent feature being ment, but the pretence was too obvious. little personal irrigating ducts that lead a great nose, diverted by nature a little to one side and flanked by a tremendous of zeal to distract attention from lack pair of cheekbones, with great hollows of earnestness in more important diunderneath. Ridges and furrows swept rections, they stationed battalions of downward in curves toward the corners men about the Madison Square Garden wonder of a sheep flying at the butcher's of a large mouth, and neither mustache and gave the last touch of ghastly humor nor beard hid the strong individuality to the whole proceedings. of this striking countenance. A head not large, but wonderfully bumped and battered by the operations of the brain" was partially covered by a mop of dark, not to be mourned. wavy hair. "Long, bony arms, with long bony hands; a long, lank body, with a long black coat on it; a long, loose pair of legs, with long boots on the feet; all in motion at the same time; all shining and wriggling and working with an indescribable vitality; a voice bubbling up from the vast depths below with cheery, spasmodic and unintelligible words of welcome"-this was HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN. The American visitor adds, with earnest conviction that left no doubt in his own mind: "I would have picked him out from among candidate for Congress or the proprietor

in the United States." ANDERSEN, of course, prattled about social life, evidently giving the impression that he was inordinately vain. That such was the case there is little doubt, but it is pleasant and right to believe that his was the absolutely innocent egotism of a little child who wants everybody to look at him when he is doing anything which pleases himself. The little one, moreover, is sure that his father is the greatest man who ever lived, his mother the most beautiful woman in the world, his home the grandest, his playthings the finest. Do we find fault? Do we not rather smile indulgently and agree heartily, with an inward "GoD bless you, my dear!" HANS ANDERSEN was vet a child when he died at seventy.

Hamm and His Exceptional Trusts.

The Man has arrived on the Hour The Crisis Breaker is ready for business. banner on the outer wall of Monopoly. Mr. HAMM wishes to represent the

Third Mississippi district in Congress. His platform is great and good. We weep proud and happy tears as HAMM takes up tenderly an old love, the initiative and referendum, and a new love, the "recall." He would give a proper percentage of the voters the right to recall any "bad" officeholder to private life. He would have international divorce laws and international control of corporations. He would add power to the Interstate Commerce Commission, abolish the State of Utah if it refuses to be good, provide for the election of Postmasters by the people, annihilate grafters, and let no lawyer talk more than six minutes in court.

These are thoughts of great value, worthy cogitations; but one glorious plan of his transcends them all in height and value:

" Abolish all trusts, except trusts organized by farmers to raise the price of cotton."

This is a limited revival of the old courtsmashed anti-trust law of Texas and some other States that forbade all trusts 000,000 of the policyholders' money, might have counteracted his fears and but those of farmers and laborers. It money which is, or ought to be, the most dreams to some extent; and when he is really founded on the impregnable principle that "my trust is good, all other trusts are wicked."

HAMM is the trust regulator for whom millions yearn. We watch him reverently as he hits the stars with his sublime head.

The Passing of the Masked Ball.

One of the interesting phenomena of the social season just coming to an end | idle spindles. has been the disappearance of the public and the author's discussion of the ques- the policyholders, and, indeed, does not a public singer. Failing in this, he hoped masked ball as a means of winter diversion. Some of these balls were given terest, and he means to have it. Mr. in the fond belief that he was a poet, during the past few months, but in only one case can it possibly be said that anynever have been known to rise up and he wrote novels, dramas, books of thing like the old time success was attravel. He was very proud of all of tained. That ball had back of it the these works, now so generally for- name and support of a prosperous club, mon to both sexes; and it becomes of a gotten; and, strange to say, the only even though it cannot be said that this passing interest to note how they will things he ever accomplished of which public function represents very accube impressed with Mr. HARRIMAN'S as- he was not especially proud are the rately the spirit of the Arion Society. In years gone by the Liederkranz, an-Mr. HARRIMAN is the associate and part- over, his stories for children. Yet in other German social club, also had a public ball under its name; but that en- at Liverpool the size of the train waiting to take Appellate Division of the Supreme Court his partner, Open, he has the State adaptation, legend or inscription—they tertainment was discontinued when it In Brooklyn at the February term in Legislature at Albany to-day in the may, perhaps, be repeated from genera- became certain that public masked balls the trains as they are at some distance and under 1803. The plaintiff was the mother of a hollow of his hand. Would the bleattion to generation, after the statue in this city can have but one character, a large train shed, which precludes the possibility
who had died under chloroform while line victims of the Equitable go for rolling. and that not of a kind that conservative

organizations should care to stand for. The Cercle Français de l'Harmonie and other societies of French origin also gave their annual balls in past years, but the public indifference manifested itself so plainly that they ceased to be a source of profit. In most cases the the Swartz-Fischer wedding. The groom's name society sold the use of its name and its paid for these rights a lump sum that in himself the child's point of view went into the benevolent fund of the With the Equitable transformed into would have been remarkable in any club. The ultimate good the money whereupon, having ascertained that the can hardly be blamed if they fail to re- DERSEN never grew up; in spite of seventy scruples as to the propriety of assum-

cognize Opell's associate as a philanthro- long years of life, his was preem. Intly ling responsibility for them might never a child's nature until the day of his have been manifested. The entertainments were never so reprehensible as they were said to be, although it is certain that their earlier license would

It was probably the moderation in their gayety that deprived these balls of all interest for the public. Although such wickedness as became visible was largely the result of a little animation on the part fishermen, sloops, schooners and cheap of very young New Yorkers or visitors from the rural districts, there were always persons who remained to witness hours of the dance might produce. The soberer visitors were supposed to depart earlier. After a time it came about that all who went to the balls were waiting to see what might happen at the end. Americans are accused of being selfconscious and unwilling to reveal their emotions in public. What was their hesitation to display the least vivacity when several thousand pairs of eyes were watching the half hundred guests who might be expected to provide amusement for so many! The balls became after a not to be a part of any of the gayety, but wanted to see it all. Hired dancers were called in to supply the entertain-When the police wanted to make a show

Then the public balls began to decline in interest, until to-day they have all but disappeared. They are certainly

Ruralist Rainbows.

The virtuous rural legislator looks upon this city with the same ingenuous feeling that BLUCHER uttered as he regarded London from the dome of St. Paul's Cathedral.

What a lot of plunder there is here! The virtuous rural legislator thinks that New York can be pinched and plundered and the rest of the State can share in the profits without contributing to them.

Thus the Stock Transfer tax and the Mortgage tax are specially devised for a thousand men at the first glance as a the injury of New York. The injury will be distributed. The smaller cities and of a tavern if I had met him anywhere | the country towns will pay their proportion to the piper. The Mortgage tax, in particular, will bite every borrower, himself and his work and his success in and it will be harder to escape it in a small place than it will be here.

A burden on the business of this city is a burden on the business of the State. The resentment against those who impose that unnecessary burden will be felt in all parts of the State.

What has become of the "great expectations" which Consul-General SKINNER of Marseilles. France, brought home to us from Abyssinia? It now looks as if Germany will get ahead of us in practical results from a trade connection there. A syndicate of German merchants, manufacturers and exporters has been formed to open avenues for trade with Abyssinia. The syndicate is sending out an expedition, and as soon as it returns German commercial travellers and technical experts will proceed to establish business connections. It is expected that the German Government will support the enterprise. In the meantime The Crisis Breaker is ready for business.

HAMM, J. S. HAMM, has hung out his banner on the outer wall of Monopoly.

Bapport the emerphase. It the meantains the newly organized "German Bank for East Africa" has begun operations at the miles from Cairo. But the visit of about the miles from

What have American merchants, manufacturers, and exporters yet done toward taking advantage of the celebrated Abvssinian-American treaty of commerce, which Consul-General SKINNER negotiated?

The actual number of signatures to the protest against the stamp tax on stock sales was not 50,000, as has been generally stated. That was merely the first batch sent up to Albany. On Tuesday last 22,000 additional signatures were forwarded by the committee, making 72,000 in all.

This multitudinous demonstration against the Odell-Higgins plan to levy an inequitable tax on a special industry here, and to weaken this metropolis as a financial centre for the benefit of Philadelphia, Boston or Hoboken, is of immense significance politically.

The London Speciator of March 18 prints the information that thirty-five new cotton spinning mills are now being built in Lancashire. It also states that new weaving sheds are being erected, and that about 11.500 hands will be required as operatives in the new enterprises. The communication adds that "this year full time is assured, and the outlook for both employers and work people has seldom been more encouraging."

Our exports of cotton cloth for the first eight months of the current fiscal year were valued at \$23,966,430. For the same period of the preceding year they were \$9,865,434. In view of this increase, and of the fact that the new English mills must look for their market in foreign countries, it is not easy to see just why England should be erecting new mills to manufacture American raw cotton for export trade while we have many

The United States Congress is becoming every year a less showy and more practical and hard working body.—New York Tribune. More practical, but also more showy. When, for example, was the House of Representatives more practical and at the same time more ostentatious than when it passed the infinitesimal recess mileage grab under the enthusiastic leadership of the Hon.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir! Your correspondent who tells of the surprise of the large Californian upon seeing from the deck of his ship the passengers to London must have been mis taken. In the first place, it is impossible to see the deal's of incoming boats. Secondly, although the train is lighter, perhaps, than our American combinations, still it is as large and unquestionably more comfortable and faster. NEW YORK, March 31.

From the Monigomery Tribune.
The Tribune made "quite an error" in regard to was Charles Wencil instead of George Swaris, and the wedding took place at the Lutheran church instead of at the bride's parents. We are sorry we made such an error, but are not altogether to blame for it as we were misinformed in regard to the

Where Needed.

To help the little college May be laudable, no doubt. But who will help the parents When the graduates get out? THE ASSUAN DAM SCHEMES.

Mr. Cope Whitehouse on English Fallures and American Plans.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In the elegram from London, March 28, published exclusively in THE SUN, it is stated that a new theory regarding the stress upon masonry dams has been brought forward by Prof. Atch. erley and Prof. Pearson of University College, London. This statement scarcely explains the exact conditions so as to make them clear even to engineers. The novelty of the opinion expressed lies in its application to the Nile reservoir dam, and not in any discovery of a mechanical principle applicable to dame

in general. In 1840 a French engineer, M. Mongel, proposed to Mehemet Ali to construct a wall across the two branches of the Nile, under which the entire flood would pass as freely as in the case of any other bridge. But the arches were fitted with gates, by which, when the Nile current had diminished to an almost imperceptible flow, the water could be headed up a few feet. When Linant de Bellefonds was consulted he conceded, of course, that if the water was thus raised it would flow through the irrigation channels at a level higher than the ordinary level of the river. In other words, the silt deposit in those canals might be allowed to accumulate without impairing their usefulness. The river would be raised enough to flow at a higher leve!.

The only engineering difficulty lay in the onstruction. It was necessary to make a masonry, brickwork and concrete paveent, about 150 feet wide, on which the bridges stand. This pavement had to be defended on the upstream side against undermining, and the entire works, when completed, represented a cost of about \$9,000,000. It was, however, determined to make this point an extensive fortress, so that about \$20,000,000 was expended. In every stream running through or over a soft bottom there is a subterranean channel, into which gradually passes the fine sand and material offering less resistance to the passage of the water. Linant proposed to close those parts of the river bed which had quicksands and increase the canal discharges, in the dry; but his opinion was overruled.

When the six Powers guaranteed, in 1885. loan of (about) \$45,000,000, after paying England about \$4,000,000 for her alleged claim to an annuity, growing out of the so-called

England about \$4,000,000 for her alleged claim to an annuity, growing out of the so-called "purchase" of the Suez Canal shares, a retired Anglo-Indian engineer who had been employed in a cholera camp was put in charge. More recently be found employment in the office of the Secretary of State for Scotland. He was given a free hand to spend \$5,000,000 on any new work. He elected to disregard the unanimous opinion of all the engineers of up to date methods, and not only have these bridge dams swallowed up the \$5,000,000, but as many more have followed them. A picturesque story by the Hon. Frederic C. Penfield, the Consul-General appointed by President Cleveland, recently showed the danger to the deita.

There was a nephew by marriage of Col. Scott-Moncrieff, William Willcocks, with whose services the Indian Department of Public Works was also willing to dispense. It was he who persuaded Sir C. Scott-Moncrieff to make those experiments with the Lower Nile which wrong the heart of Nubar Pashs, and to "repair" the Barrages. Then he was made director of reservoir studies, and having the French Barrage on his mind concluded that a similar structure might be built at Assuan, holding up the water at unequal depths, with a pressure in some places of over 120 feet. In 1894 this plan, with four others, including the Ralyan project (as drawn by Willcocks) was submitted to three engineers selected by him. They were Sir R. Baker, Signor Torricelli and M. Boule. M. Boule is the distinguished French engineer who built the "shutter dams" adopted by the American engineers for the Great Kanawha and other Western rivers. Signor Torricelli emerged from obscurity, remained about six weeks in Egypt, received \$5,000 and returned to enjoy the repose of the villa which he had bought with the money. Then the whole subject was pigeonholed until 1898. In the meantime the Public Works Ministry had refused to allow an American syndicate of Chicago contractors to make the Ralyan sluiceways to carry the flood into the depression discovered by me it and the raising of the Assuan Dam b twenty feet. Of course, there is no eng neering connection whatever between the water ponded in Nubia, more than 750 miles up

seventy miles from Cairo. But the visit of Sir B. Baker, to which the special despatch to The Sty from Lendon refers, was part of a scheme to cover the taking and making of the Raiyan plans, by claiming that "the present project," "the combination of the two schemes is a wholly novel idea" (Parliamentary Papers, Egypt, No. 2, August, 1904, page 169). Full credit is given me for the Raiyan project in this despatch; and Lord Cromer invites the special attention of Lord Lansdowne to the description of it; but by annexing it to the "raising of the Assuan Dam," and omitting two letters in its name, the "Ryan" project immediately became an entirely different proposition. For in 1887 and in 1895 I had "taken no account of the Assuan reservoir dam." It appears that this reservoir may perhaps become of "no account" at an early date.

In 1808, when it was begun, to the dismay of the artistic, engineering and political experts, it was said that it would add 2,000,000 acres to the irrigated erea of Egypt. In 1803 it was officially stated that the financial benefits were \$20,000,000. In January, 1804, it had, according to Willcocks, disappointed expectation. In April, 1904, according to Lord Percy, Under Secretary of State for Foreign Afairs, it had added 170,000 acres, and in February, 1805, the London Times spoke of its valuable assistance as represented by only 5,000 acres less than the cultivated surface of twenty years ago. However, as the foundation of the dam had been ingeniously made extra wide, so that the Aird-Baker-Cassel syndicate might receive a larger sum in construction certificates, the dam could be raised twenty feet. This would, at all events, justify the postponement of the American project. The Oriental keeps an "open door" for the tourist, but "the authorities" are ready to "prevent" any effort to create engineering works, however beneficial, by American enterprise and capital.

Now, what Messrs, Atcherley and Pearson are said to have discovered is simple and old enough. A solid dam is built on the calc

enough. A solid dam is built on the calculation that the weight of masonry throughout its entire length is equal to the pressure of the water with a margin of safety. But the Assuan structure is an "open" dam, a wall over 180 shiloeways. Consequently, in each of these sewers there is an upward pressure equal to the downward pressure. The lifting of the tron cover of a manhole in a flooded sewer is a common occurrence. Therefore, in those sections of the wall above these sluices the stability of the dam is only that weight which was added as the "margin of safety." The upward stress takes all the weight which was put there to balance the downward and horizontal stress. The wall is, in theory, being twisted, pushed, lifted with varying streams, assisted by the vibration of 600 cubic feet per second. If a fire hose were lowered from a building 100 feet in height and the water were still pumped through it the pressure at the horvie would tend to carry the pipe out of the perpendicular.

Why the Aird-Baker-Cassel syndicate did not perceive this until after they had spent 15, 500,000 or thereabourts, and received irrigation certificates so ared on the Egyptian land tax including even house property in Cairo and Alexandria, may require explanation. The fact remains. An open dam must be so built as to carry twice as much weight above the sluices as would be required for a closed dam of equal height.

COPE WHITEHOUSE.

CHARLESTON, W. Va., March 29

Was it Gillig's Bakery or Noonan's? TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The bakery saindrome exhumed from the interesting scrapbook of your correspondent "D." is historic on the Coast. It was really a double palindrome, for the

S. GILLIO'S

THERA BAKENT.

As it was painted on the window of the unpretentious shop it read the same either from the external or from the internal point of view. It was a hard tesk, when the thing was brought to his notice, to convince S. Gillig that the painter had not played trick on him. The bread was good, a fit kitchen to the trout of the mountain streams of the Shasia

NEW YORK, March \$1.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SCH -SIT: The correspondent who in to day's SUN calls attention to the bakery at Yreke, Cal., tells but one-half the story. The man who established that bakery was A. Noonan, and his sign read

N. A. MOONAN. TREES DAKERT.

This strange double palindrome can easily be established, I think, by reference to the commercial agencies of twenty years ago.

NEW YORK, March St. J. M. WASEBURNE.

NORTH AND SOUTH IRISH. Ulster's Ultra-Cettle and Plain Irish Blood Asserted.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: As to the distinctions between the North and South Irish suggested by "E. R. D.," it appears to me that he labors under a very common delusion about the inhabitants of Ireland. namely, that a difference of religious faith means a difference in race or nationality. The comparatively few Scots who came to Ulster were distinctly Celtic, if names indicate anything, and were returning to the land from which their ancestors had gone some centuries before to conquer the Picts and other natives. That they had gone over to Presbyterianism, or their fathers had, did not change their blood; and that they had the military and migratory habits of their Celtic forbears their course in America indicated.

While land laws and landlords sent many Ulstermen to America during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the same causes, plus famines, sent as numerous a brood from Munster and Leinster. Massachusetts did nos love the Irish, whether they saved their souls through Geneva or Rome; and it forced them to the Indian frontier, then New Hampshire Governor Dongan, a Kildare man, introduced many of his co-religionists to New York; Pennsylvania and the Alleghany regions got Irish from all sections; but the lack of Church establishments and priests seat the children of the first generation into the various reformed Churches of their neighborhoods. The Carolinas received a large Irish emigration in the early eighteenth century, a fact which led to much grumbling on the part of the Governors of the Plantation.

While a great emigration from provinces Governor Dongan, a Kildare man, introduced

of the Plantation.

While a great emigration from provinces other than Ulster set in about 1847, it should not be forgotten that the wretched agrarian, religious and governmental conditions of Ireland kept the stream of humanity from that island flowing steadily before and after the Revolution; and while the French Revolution and the Empire with their wars practically stopped emigration from England and constinental Europe, they rather stimulated Irish emigration to America by closing one of the most ancient channels of escape from English misgovernment—the armies of France.

The peculiarities of the English navigation acts made all legal emigration pass through

misgovernment—the armies of France.

The peculiarities of the English navigation acts made all legal emigration pass through English ports in English bottoms under English names; and thousands of exiles from leinester and Munster sailed for America from Bristol and other ports.

I am of opinion that the majority of Ulster is vastly more Celtic in its composition than Leinster and Munster, for in these latter provinces there is a large admixture of English, Welsh and French blood, though the children of the mixture have like the Norsmans, become thoroughly Irish.

The Ulstermen who came to America were thoroughly Irish—blain Irish, they called themselves Irish; their neighbors, who did not love their superabundant energy and pugnacity, called them Irish; and they called their towns and localities by Irish names. While they might cordially disagree—to use a mild term—with their Catholic countrymen religiously, they were at one with them in rushing to arms to get a whack at the common enemy in 1778, and that common enemy in 1878, and that common enemy abused them vigorously without any nice distinctions as Irish. The Ulsterman is a Celt, whether he be a Donegal man ignorant of English or an Antrim man with a Scotch burr; and they all have the same cool, cautious, canny ways until a fight is to the fore, when the fierce pugnacity and joy of battle come out, as in all of them, whether Donegal, Derry, Cork, Kerry, Wicklow or Galway claim them.

If historians and readers of history wills.

If historians and readers of history will if themselves of the odium theologicum, the little hethic question won't puzzle them.

LOWELL, March 29. JOSEPR SMITH.

LITTLE RESTAURANTS.

Hardships Imposed on Their Proprietors by the Raines Law Amendments. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Is it

not possible to frame an exeise law to be ap-plied to this city in which some consideration shall be shown for the rights of those entirely reputable men who, especially in the foreign quarters, are struggling to maintain cheaps restaurants where wine is served to guests? There are many of these places, unknown to the amateur bohemian, where the residents of the quarter eat a cheap and wholesome meal amid homelike surroundings. The influence of such places is only good, and the men who maintain them are doing a genuine public service.

prietors have a license to sell wine, for their guests are men and women accustomed to the moderate use of wine at meals. I suppose that the framers of the new amendments to the Baines law have never dined at any of these places; they perhaps have no sus-picion that the amended law means ruin to some of these men: or, if not ruin, then sub-mission to some form of blackmail in return for the privilege of violating the "nw. Why should the innocent be "ne the vio-tims of a law intended to reach on!" the guilty? Many of his wintended to reach on the guilty many of the men who dine as the places as I have indicated have come as he United States expecting to find, along with greater material opportunities. "A bighter degree of individual liberty. They find, however, of individual liberty. They find, however, in an instance that comes home to every man of them, a brutal form of oppression under color of law. They see a useful and reputable business subjected to an oppressively high tax; they see also vexatious and expensive regulations imposed to the ruin of many of their countrymen. Itemust be a little puzzling to these childrenge of monarchy to find the Government of a republic deliberately enacting laws that rob hard working men of their savings and drive them out of business. Only a fanatic could know the best of these cheap foreign restaurants and fail to realize their high social value in this vast community.

community.

Helf a dozen dinners in as many different foreign restaurants of this city would consume all but the most reckless excise reformed that the innocent victims of this new legislation deserve to be considered. There is no country of Europe, save perhaps Russia or Turkey, where laws so cruelly oppressive could be enacted.

E. N. V.

A Librarian's Perplexity.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Having read your paper for many years, and having received valuable information in response to inquiries. I venture again to trespass upon your time. The question may seem foolish to you, but it has cost the writer some worry to answer questions of pairons of the library. Can you recommend a line of reading upon the subject of deentology? Now, we have the usual run of books on "cthics," besides the cyclopedias, dictionaries, &c., but want par-ticularly to have books treating upon the abstract idea of "right"-absolute right-the idea of immutable, absolute right. What is the essential point or origin of the idea of right, and wherein does the rightness of right and the wrongness of wrong inhere? In other words, what makes a thing right in the abstract? Paley says it is right "when conformed to the will of God." Modern scientifie ethics asserts that possibly an ethical germ has always existed in the mind of man; does this teach, that there are innate ideas, and if so how does it, agree with the teaching of psychology that we get all our ideas from the sense perceptions? If we think of God as the creater of all things, would is be a fair conclusion that He made the ideas of right or the standards of right? And can we dis-tinguish between God's "will" and his "crestive" powers? Mark's S. Kemelen. Amcita S. Givin Free Library.

MY. HOLLY SPRINGS. Ps . March 30. Dogs and New Yorkers.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SIFE It is a nitg ou could not have published a picture of "Anule anine" along with his letter advocating a tax of logs, so that the 90 per cent. or so of New Yorkers his kind looks like. The trouble with "Anti's" ideas is that they are based on mere money values. He apparently would not tolerate any creature except for what he could sweat or carye out of it. As for the practical view-imagine a residential neighborhood full of bleating sheep, in place of the banished dogs! I fancy "Anti" would how for a quick realization on that investment in mus NEW YORK, March 81.

Trades of Would-Be Policemen.

Among the applicants for appointment to the police force are a schoolmaster, an auctioners, several bookkeepers, a silversmith, a real estate operator, several butchers and grocers, a number of army and navy calisted men, letter carriers, poss office clorks, electricians, a shocmaker, a coffee rosster, a cashler, several stenographers, a registerer, a wrenchmaker, a produce dealer, a stores ceeper, a gilder, a file setter, and many other expert

Coarse Views of a Utilitarian. Them plous folks down Boston way Who've jumped on J. D. R.'s donation Of a hundred thousand plunks to help Benighted heathen to salvation— It can't be, kin it! that they've turned So pale with righteous indignation Bekase that Standard Oil coin fell Shy o' their modest calkelation It can't be, kin it? this worst of men

Orter swelled it, say, by tent --- Ep Moore